

TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Joseph Connelly
Director of Recreation



PARK COMMISSIONERS
Leslie Mayer, Chairperson
Jen Rothenberg, Vice Chair
Shirley Canniff
Donald Vitters
Jim Robillard
Elena Bartholomew, Associate
Peter Hedlund, Associate

Recreation Department

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, October 28, 2014
Arlington Senior Center
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:15 PM for its meeting in the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, October 28, 2014.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Shirley Canniff, Jen Rothenberg, Jim Robillard, and Associate Members Peter Hedlund and Elena Bartholomew. Dave Cunningham, Facilities Manager of the Ed Burns Arena, joined the meeting at 8pm.

Members from the public: No members of the public were in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 23, 2014 were approved on a motion from Ms. Rothenberg and seconded by Ms. Canniff. Minutes approved 4-0.

The minutes of October 14, 2014 were approved on a motion from Ms. Rothenberg and seconded by Mr. Robillard; minutes approved 3-0-1. Ms. Canniff abstained from voting because she was not present at the October 14th meeting.

Open Forum – Public Comments

There were no comments.

Art in the Park Draft Policy Discussion

The Commission reviewed the Public Art Guidelines, adopted by the Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture (ACAC) and previously presented by Mr. Connelly. The Commissioners had reviewed them individually and discussed whether these guidelines could also be adopted by the Commission to meet Park & Rec policy needs. In general, it was felt that, as long as the Commission is brought into the loop early in the process, the requirements and process were workable for installations on Park & Recreation properties. The Commission would want an early notification on any proposals so that Commissioners could participate fully in the process and public hearings before the project on the agenda of a Commission meeting.

The Commissioners then discussed whether the Robbins dog sculpture installation would have to go through the process. After reviewing the list of proposal requirements, it was felt that most of the information for the Robbins project was available in one form or another and that members of the Commission could meet with representatives of the ACAC to walk through this project as a pilot of the

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process to see if there is any additional information that would be needed. It would not be the intent to require the Friends of RFP to go through the formal procedures, but to bring the project into the ACAC loop. Mr. Connelly will be requested to set up a meeting to include Adria Arch and Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, as representatives of ACAC, and Ms. Rothenberg and Ms. Bartholomew from the Commission to discuss notification and the Robbins project.

Special Requests

No special requests were presented.

Rink Update

Mr. Cunningham, Facilities Manager of the Ed Burns Arena, updated the Commission on the rink. During the summer of 2014, improvements included replacement of the garage doors for greater energy efficiency and the repainting of the lobby, locker rooms and bathrooms.

Mr. Cunningham and the Commissions had an open discussion about the summertime use of the rink – now that rubberized flooring is available. Finding the right opportunity for the right demographic and marketing it appropriately can be challenging. Ms. Rothenberg and Ms. Canniff, in their roles as Topic Leaders for Recreation Programming, indicated an interest in continuing the conversation and brainstorming additional ideas.

The Commissioners noted that the rink looked great and thanked Mr. Cunningham and his staff for all their hard work. Ms. Mayer asked about noise complaints for the current season. Mr. Cunningham stated that two complaints had been received to date and in both cases the adult users left within their allotted fifteen minutes time – as a preventative measure, all adult users were sent a copy of the loitering policy.

Capital Projects Update

Mr. Connelly provided the following update by e-mail to the Commissions:

North Union - Walked around and did a punch list with Weston and Sampson. Sacca has to do some touch up/fine grinding on the wall and on the sand the caulking between the cement cracks. Also they owe us an ADA storm grate for the pathway.

Hibbert - Walk around and did a punch list with Weston and Sampson. We are still waiting on the circular bench, should be in next week. Need to lower one of the small stepping stone structures a few inches and secure the rubber mats under the swings. They also need to do some minor sod repair behind the slide in the spring.

Magnolia Basketball - Holding off until FY 16 and completing with Playground renovation if funding is secured.

Thorndike Off Leash Area - I am still waiting on prices so that I can seek funding. Final redesign still has to be approved by the Commission. The draft was reviewed and approved by IHCD.

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***2016 Capital Requests** - I had my meeting with Capital and will certainly review in more detail at the November meeting. The meeting went very well and our representatives (Tony Lionetta Mike Morse) seem supportive for all projects requested. They asked us to be specific in our annual ADA requests once we prioritize the projects. The also asked me to ask IHCD for their priority list of repairs/renovations. I did ask Emmanuel for this and I am waiting for his response.*

***Summer Street Netting and Buck Field Netting** - Quotes came in very high to repair both of these items. I had to ask for additional capital money to address these concerns.*

Commission Topic Leader Reports

The Commission discussed topic leader assignments. Each individual or group was asked to write a couple of sentences about the focus of each topic to be reviewed at the early December meeting.

- Recreation Programming – Shirley Canniff and Jen Rothenberg
- Capital Improvements – Don Vitters and Peter Hedlund
- Policies and Procedures - Elena Bartholomew
- ADA and Playground Inspections – Leslie Mayer and Jim Robillard
- Special Events and Fundraising – Jen Rothenberg
- Field Management – Jim Robillard, Peter Hedlund and Elena Bartholomew
- Off Leash Park and Program – Leslie Mayer
- Friends of Parks/Volunteers – Jen Rothenberg
- Open Space Committee – Elena Bartholomew and Leslie Mayer
- Town Master Plan – Open
- Funding Opportunities – Don Vitters
- Technology and Web Management – Leslie Mayer
- V2020 Culture & Recreation – Recreation Staff
- DPW Liaison – Shirley Canniff and Don Vitters

Other

.Ms. Canniff raised a concern about the handicapped swing at Florence Playground. The harness/straps that hold children on the swing have been broken/missing several times since installation and are currently in need of repair. Ms. Canniff questioned whether a different type of handicapped swing would be more appropriate and durable for Florence and for future projects. Ms. Mayer committed to inform Mr. Connelly of the situation and concern.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted:
Leslie Mayer, Park & Recreation Commission Chairperson